

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 6-14 are in the case.

**I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

It is noted, with appreciation, that claims 6 and 14 have been allowed. In order to expedite prosecution and without conceding to the merit of the outstanding rejection, the claims have been amended so as to be directed to the indicated allowable subject matter. Claims 1-5 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice to pursuing subject matter corresponding to the claims in this application prior to the present amendment in a separate continuing application.

**II. THE OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION**

Claims 1, 4, 5, 11/1, 12/1, 13/1 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over WO 91/05519. In response, and without conceding to the merit of this rejection, the rejected subject matter has been canceled without prejudice. Withdrawal of the outstanding obviousness rejection is accordingly believed to be in order, and is requested.

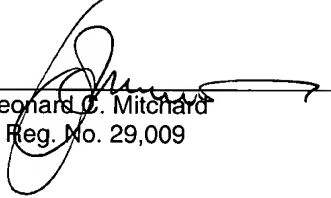
Allowance of the application is awaited.

GARMAN et al.  
Appl. No. 09/763,825  
January 26, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Leonard C. Mitchard  
Reg. No. 29,009

LCM:lfm  
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100